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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
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**FISCAL YEAR 2005
CHILD AND ADULT CARE FOOD PROGRAM
FAMILY DAY CARE HOME SPONSOR MEMO #18**

TO: Family Day Care Home Sponsors

FROM: Julie Stark, Supervisor
Child and Adult Care Food Program

DATE: September 28, 2005

SUBJECT: **Using 2000 Census Data**

This memorandum describes the guidelines for using Census data to determine the eligibility of day care home providers in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Section 17(f)(3)(A)(ii)(I)(aa) of the National School Lunch Act specifically allows the use of Census information for determining whether a provider meets the criteria of a 'tier I family or group day care home.' The information obtained from the Census Bureau is at the Census "Block Group" (CBG) level which identifies "pockets of poverty" that the legislation intended.

The Census Data

The Census Bureau provided USDA's Food and Nutrition Service with a special tabulation of population data using specific CACFP criteria. The criteria included the 2000 income eligibility guidelines, the total number of children 12 years or younger within a CBG, and of those children, the total number at or below 185% of poverty. The Census Bureau also calculated the percentage of children 12 years or younger at or below 185% of poverty compared to the total number of children 12 years or younger. One of the more critical pieces of information in the Census data is the calculated percentage. A complete explanation of the Census data is included in the attached instructions.

The Data Files Provided

Census data files for Michigan are provided in two file formats: Text (.txt) and Microsoft Word (.doc). Sponsors may import the text file into data management software that has data manipulation capabilities, such as sorting. However, the information contained in the Word document is sufficient to view the data and print a map using the American Factfinder feature of the Census Bureau's website.

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The files are easily distinguishable from each other, with the State designation in the filename.

Using the Data and Generating a Map

Data for every CBG within Michigan is provided in the Text and Microsoft Word files. Sponsors need to become familiar with the data prior to using the information to determine area-eligibility and printing a map since many CBGs do not qualify. Major steps in using this data will be the certification that an area of interest is eligible and the elimination of non-eligible areas.

CACFP Eligibility Using Census Data

Day care home providers located in CBGs in which 50 percent or more of children 12 years of age and younger live in households at or below 185% of the poverty level are eligible to participate in the CACFP as Tier I homes based on the 2000 Census data. This percentage is shown in column 6 of the data provided. We recommend that maps be printed for each of these area-eligible locations for reference and outreach purposes.

Only the 2000 Census data may be used to determine eligibility. To use the 2000 Census information sponsors should obtain and print maps of eligible CBG's using the instructions provided.

Any Tier I day care home provider classified by a sponsor based on the 1990 Census data must be reclassified using all methods available, including income eligibility, area eligibility based on 50% free and reduced price school data, or 2000 Census data immediately.

If a day care home provider is currently classified as Tier II, but the CBG data demonstrates that the home is now Tier I, then the sponsor may immediately change the status of that provider to Tier I and pay the higher rate of reimbursement for the current month and future months. There is no provision to pay retroactive reimbursement for the higher Tier I rates for any prior month.

If you have any questions concerning any of the issues addressed in this memorandum, please contact our office at (517) 373-7391.

Attachments (3)